I REMEMBER SLEEPING RESTLESSLY ON THE DAY THAT I ARRIVED IN THE ROOM OF SWORDS.

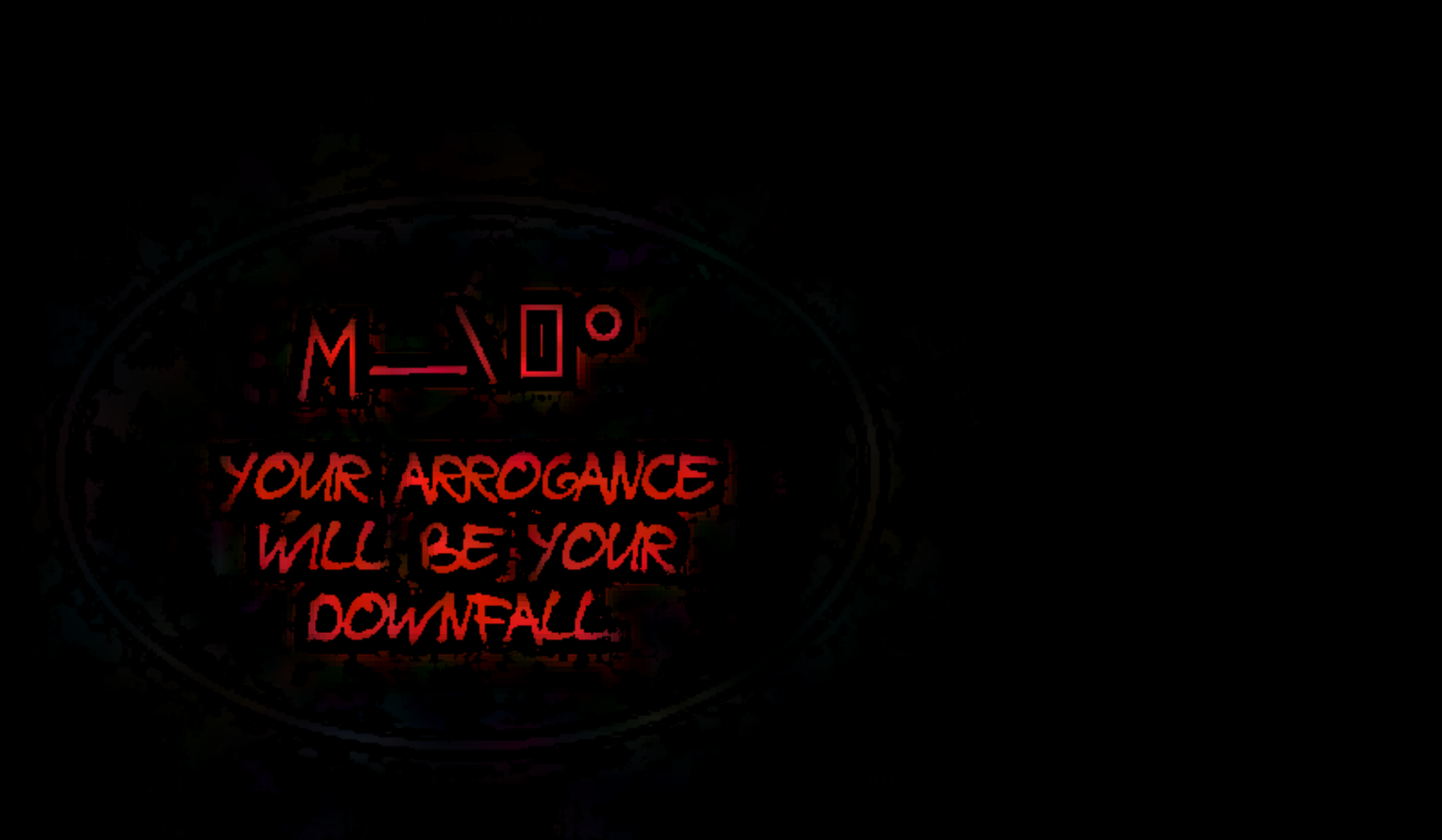
DIAS: DAYS (SPANISH)

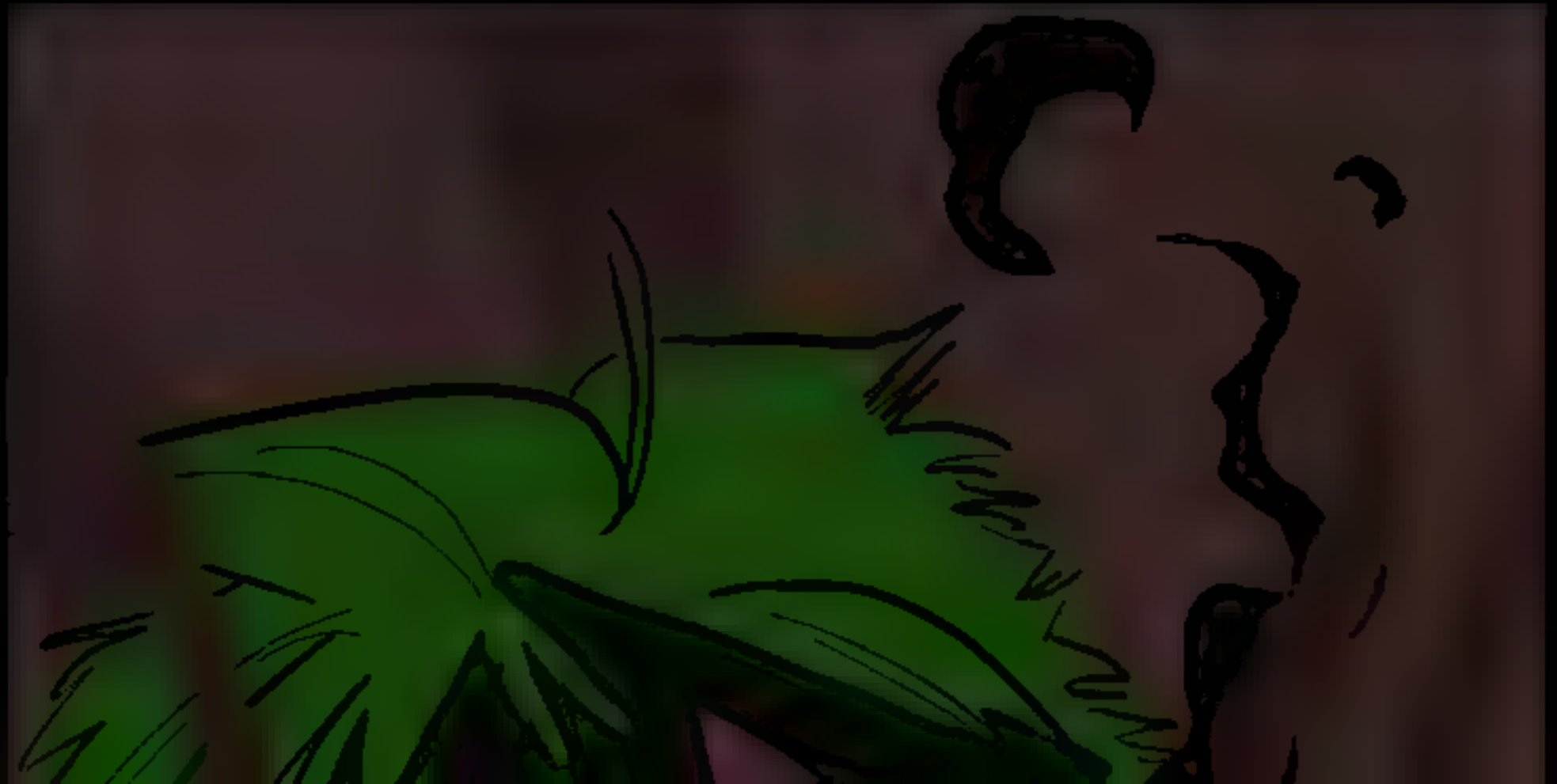
BUT THERE
WAS MORE TO IT
THAN THAT...
ROLL

YOU'RE BACK... THAT DIDN'T TAKE AS LONG AS I EXPECTED.

YOU'RE RESOURCEFUL...

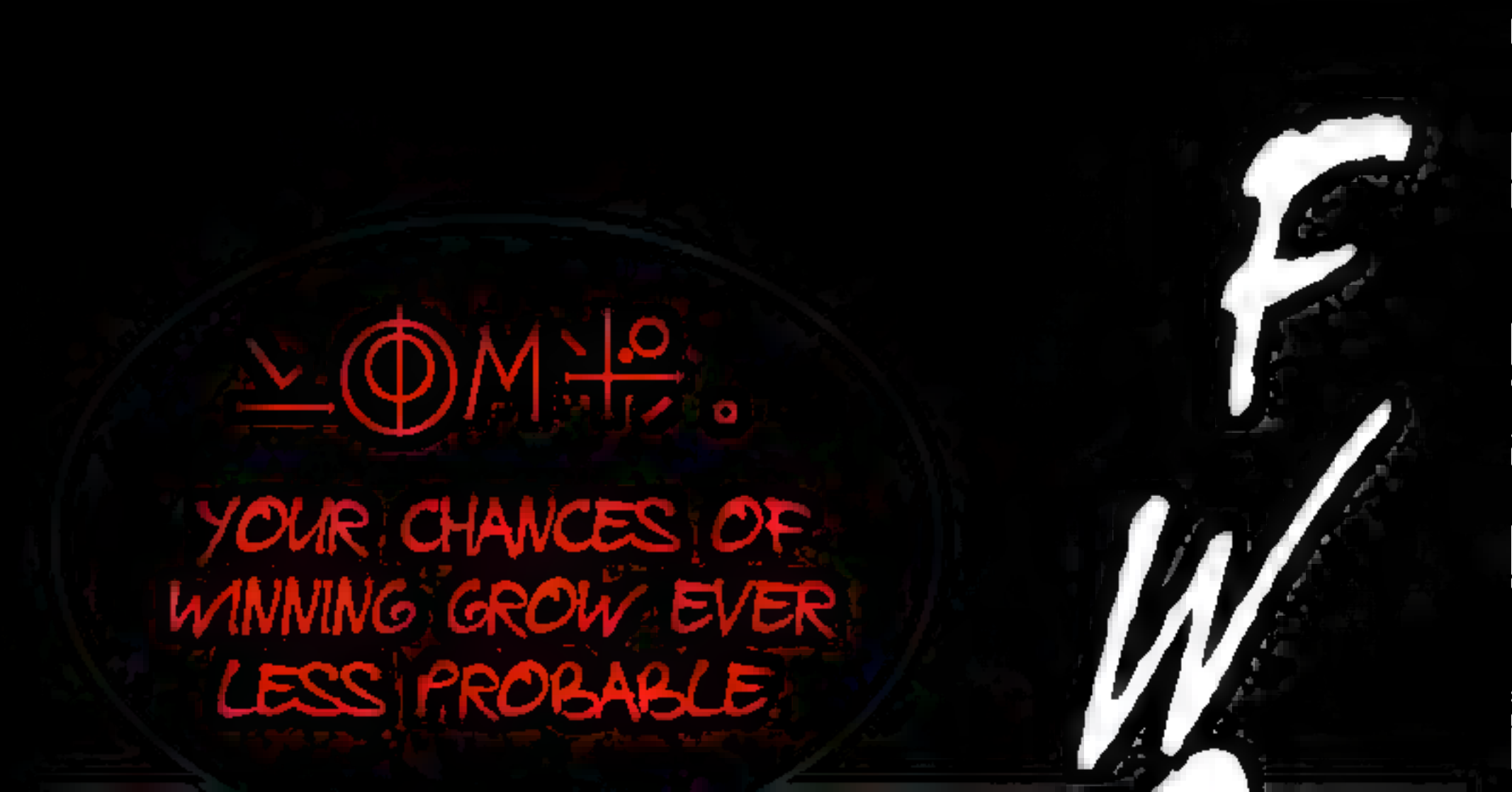
...FOR A
SHADOW.

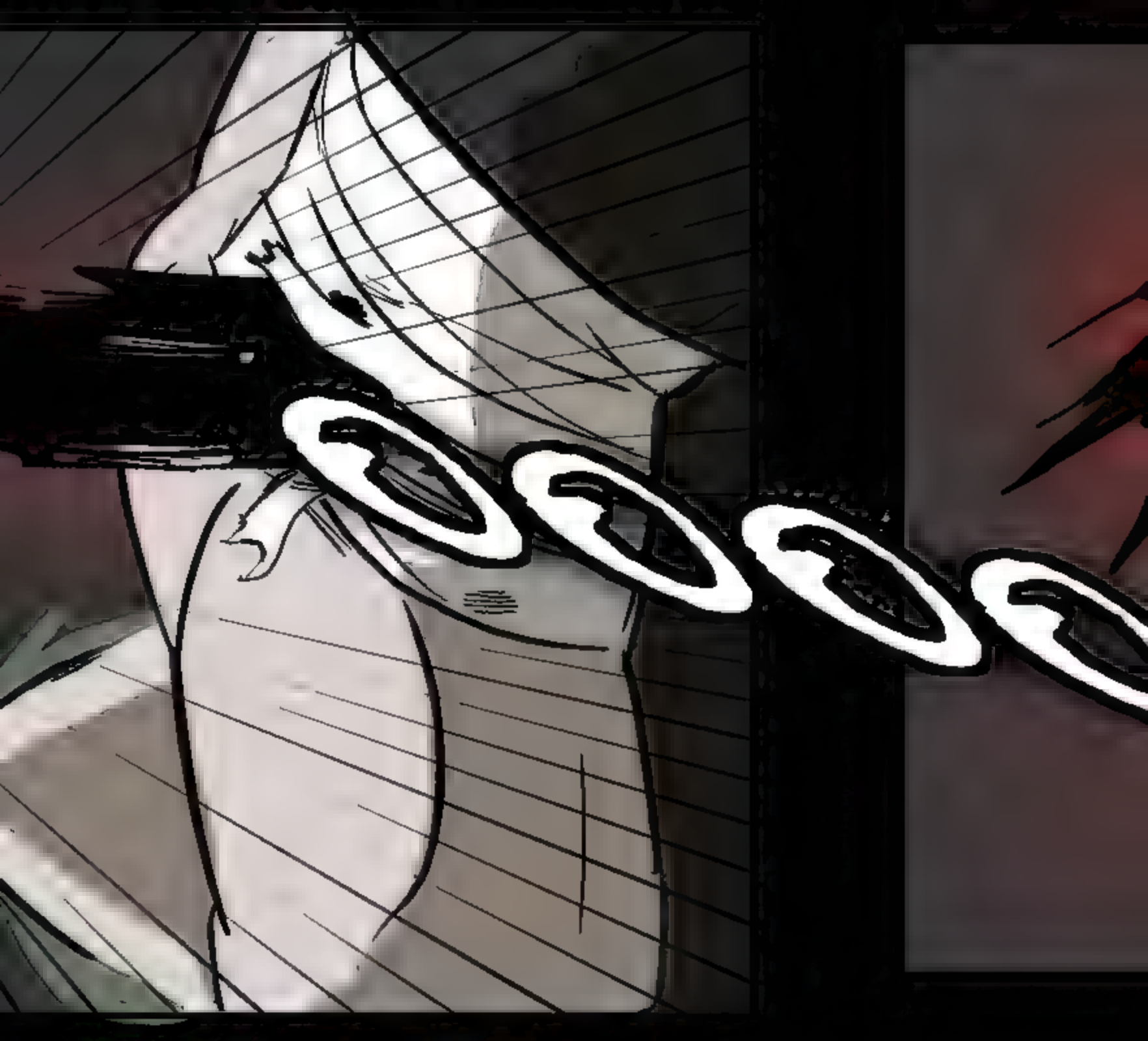

M—\□°
YOUR ARROGANCE
WILL BE YOUR
DOWNFALL

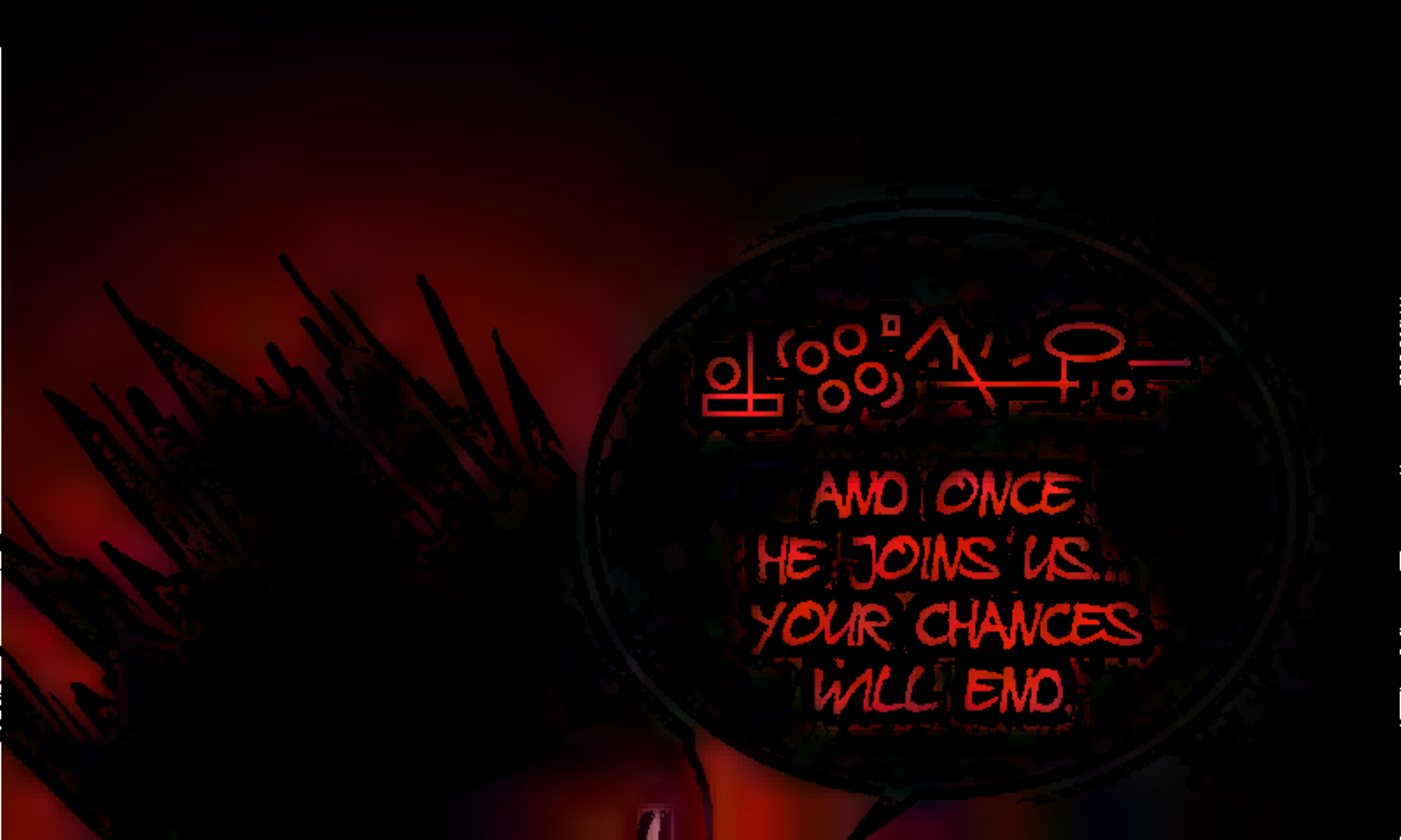


NOA
WE GROW STRONGER...
IM

WHILE YOU STAY THE SAME


YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING GROW EVER LESS PROBABLE



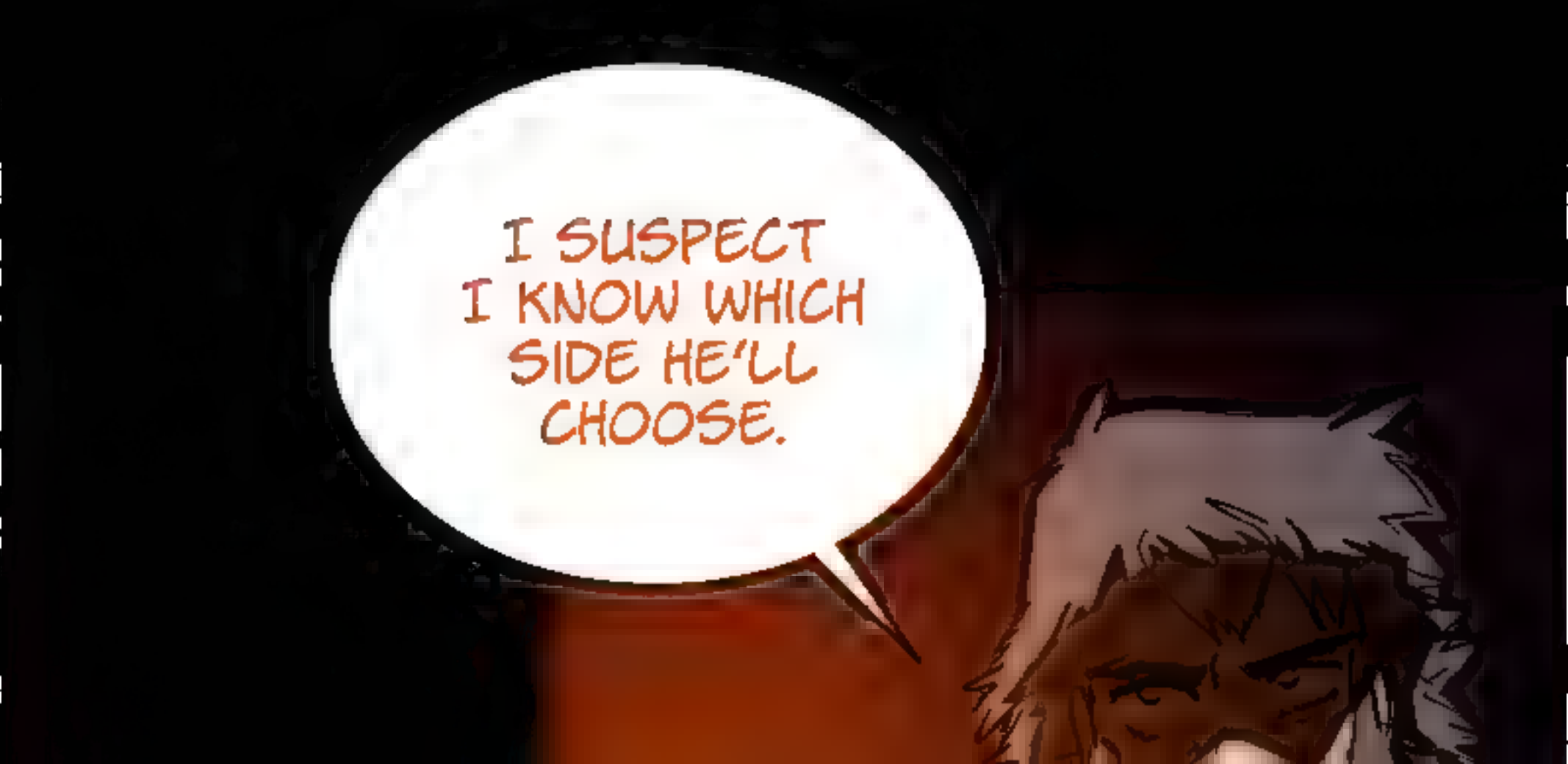

AND ONCE
HE JOINS US...
YOUR CHANCES
WILL END.

YOU ALREADY MADE YOUR FIRST MISTAKE BY BRINGING HIM HERE.

DIAS

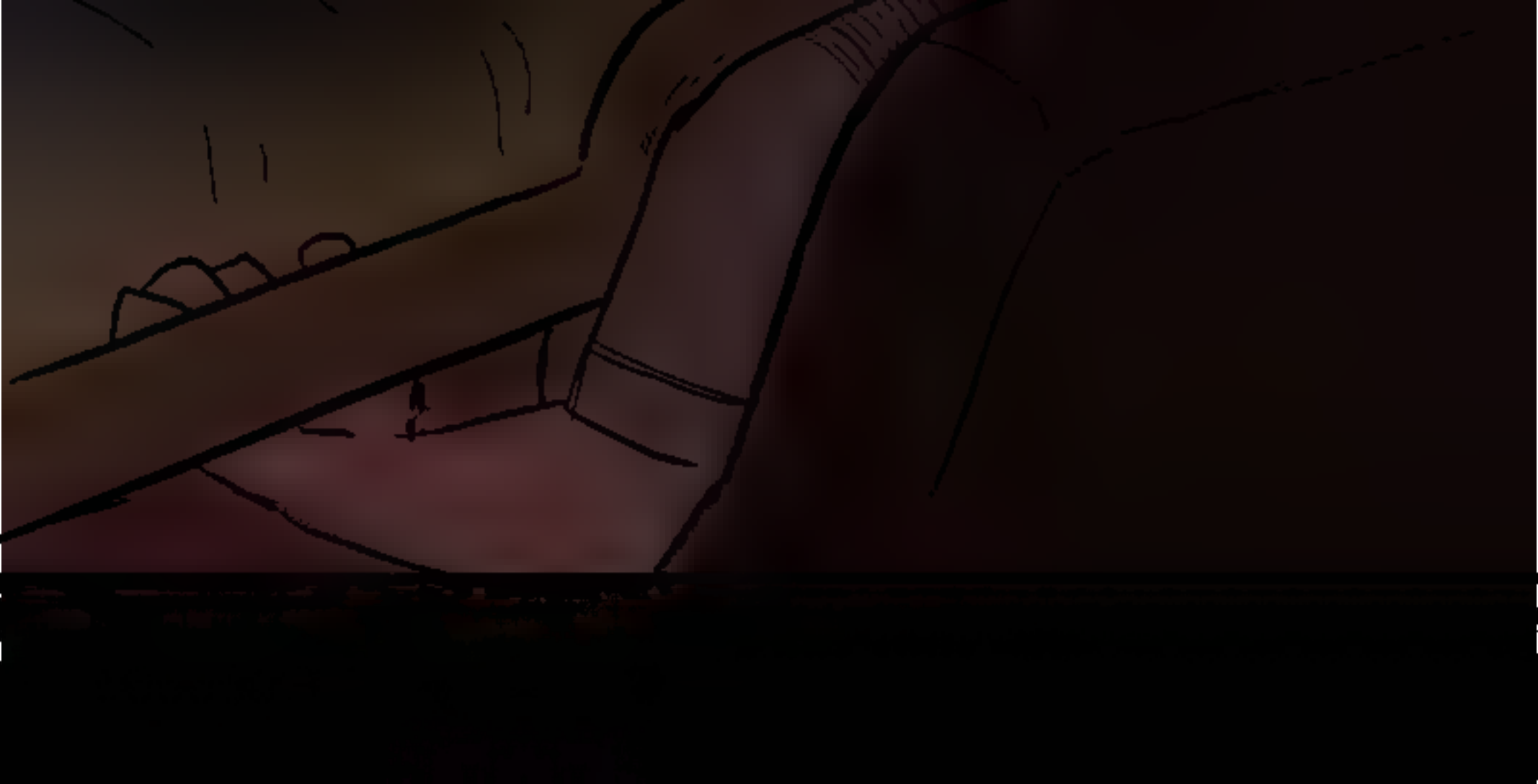
I CAN OFFER HIM AN END TO THIS NIGHTMARE.

WHILE YOUR WAY WILL LEAD TO MORE SUFFERING.


I SUSPECT I KNOW WHICH SIDE HE'LL CHOOSE.

APPARENTLY BEING STRIPPED OF YOUR FREEDOM WAS NOT ENOUGH TO DULL YOUR HUBRIS

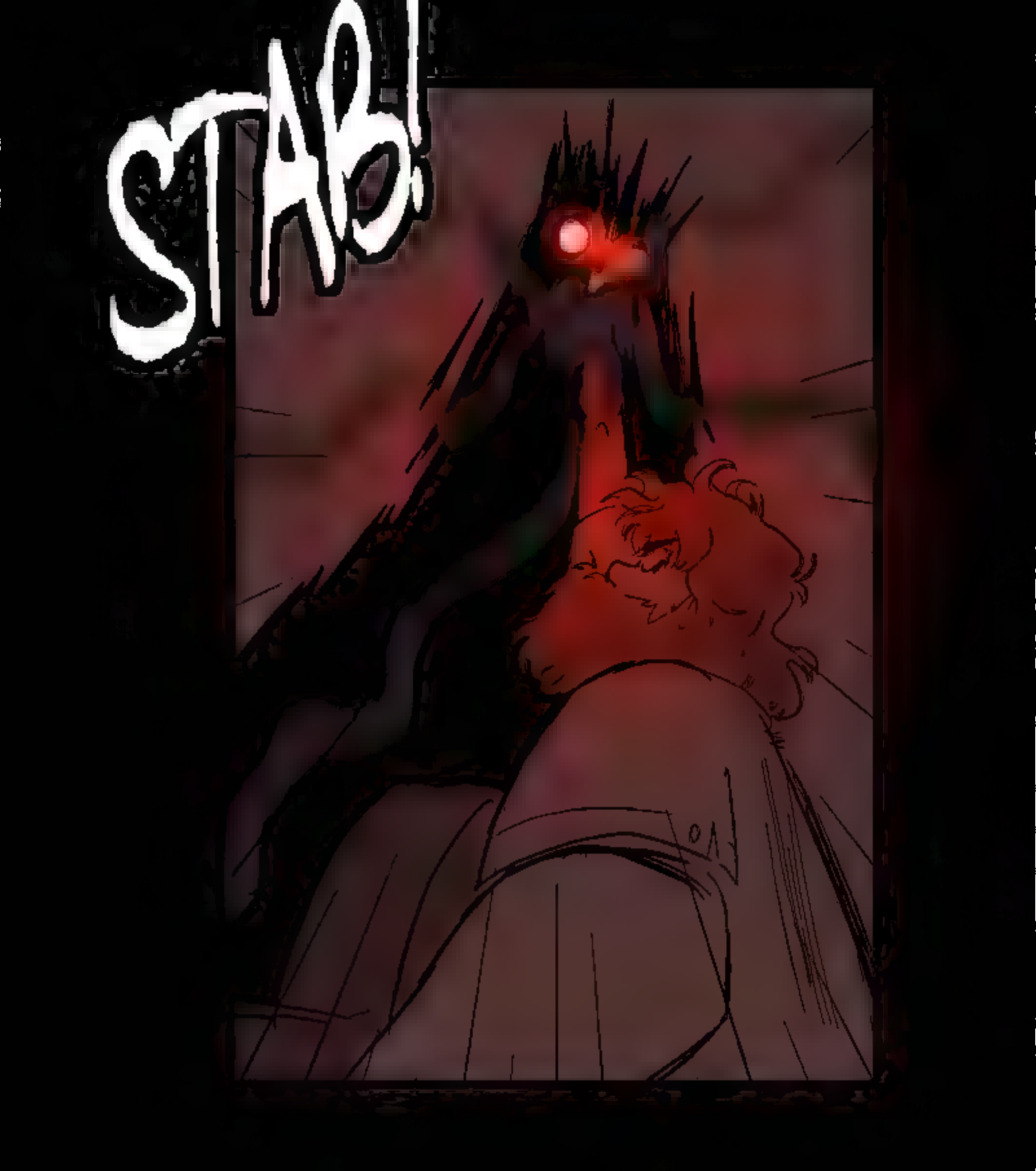
MAYBE WE SHOULD LEAVE A MORE PERMANENT REMINDER OF OUR POWER



VAMMM

APPEAR

Hoooooo


STAB!

SCREECH!!!

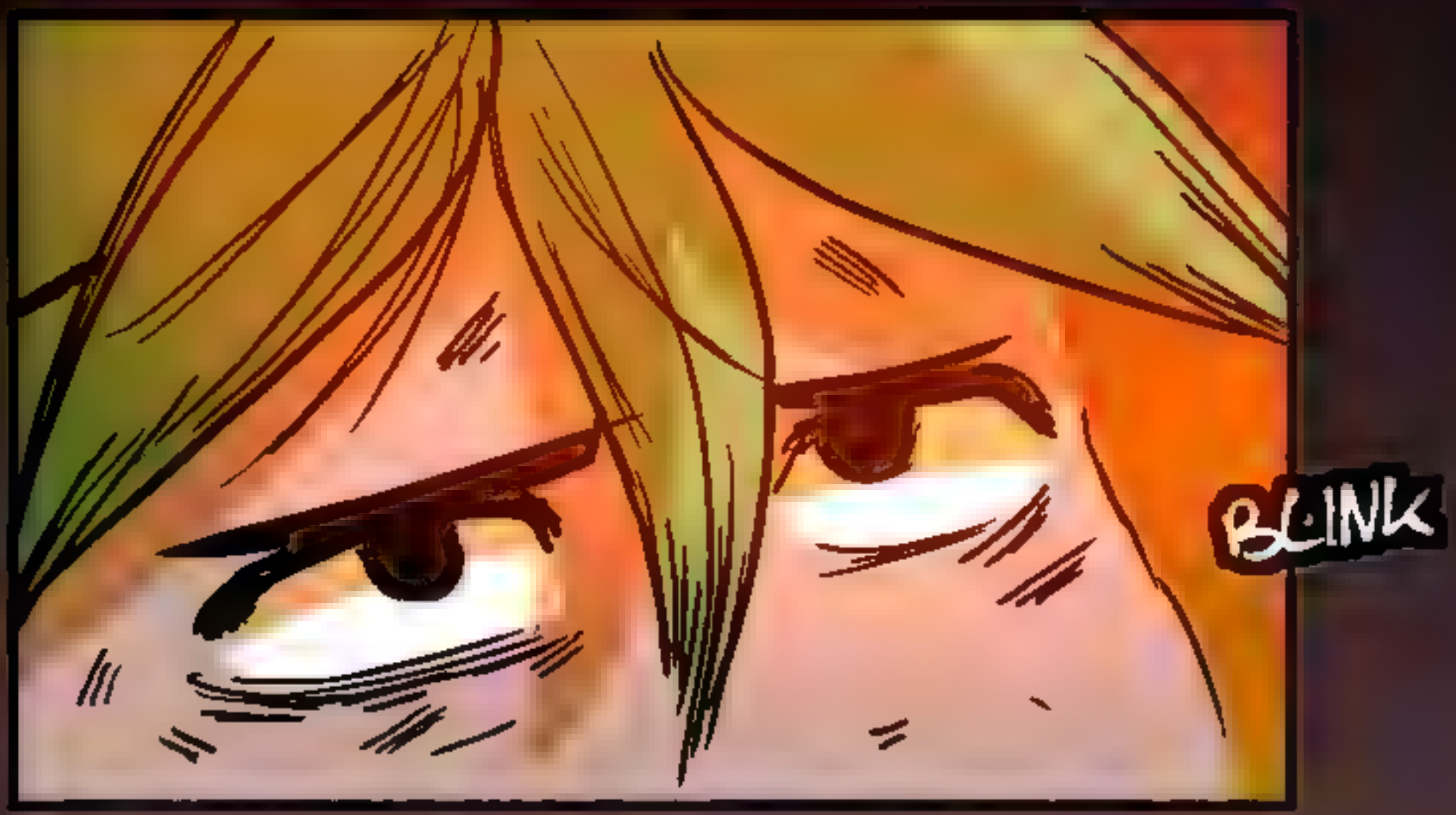
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY RESOURCEFUL CREATURE HERE...

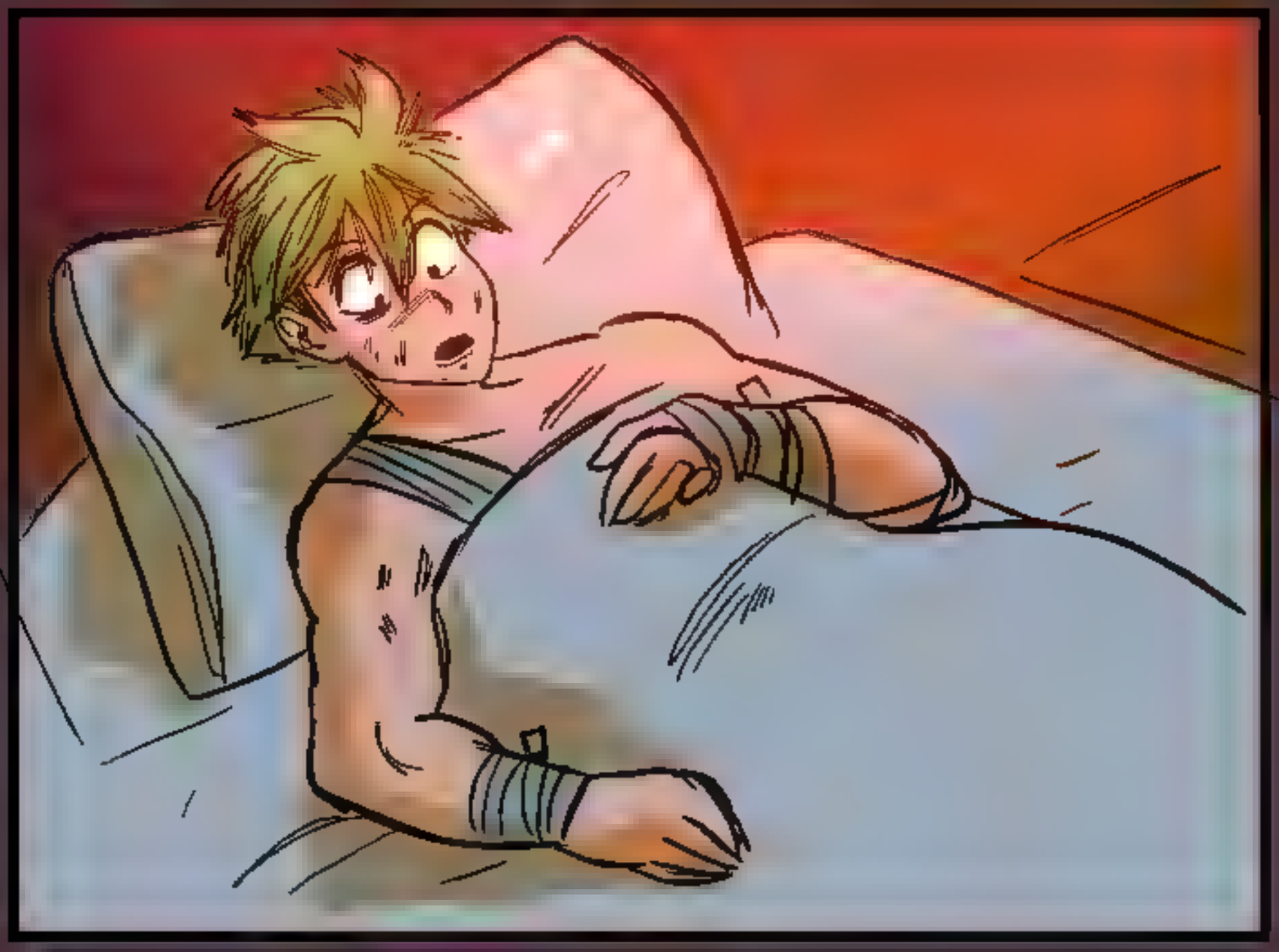
IT MAY ONLY BE A SHARD... BUT I KNEW KEEPING A PIECE OF BOSS SWORD WOULD SERVE ME WELL SOME DAY.

FOR YOU
TO SEIZE CONTROL
REQUIRES HIS MIND
TO EITHER BE WEAK
OR OPEN.

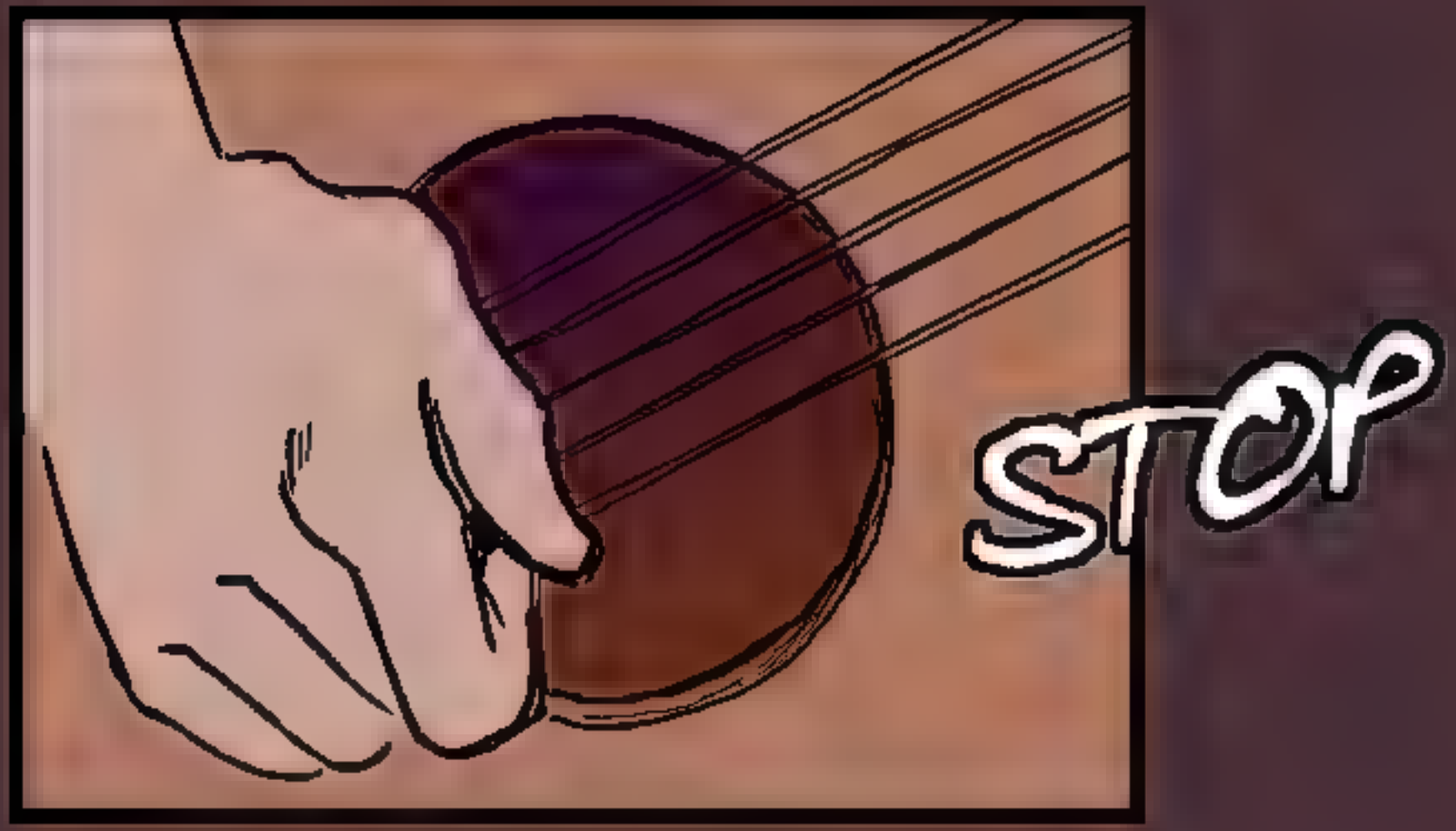
SCREECH!!!

YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT BEFORE TRYING TO GET IN MY WAY.

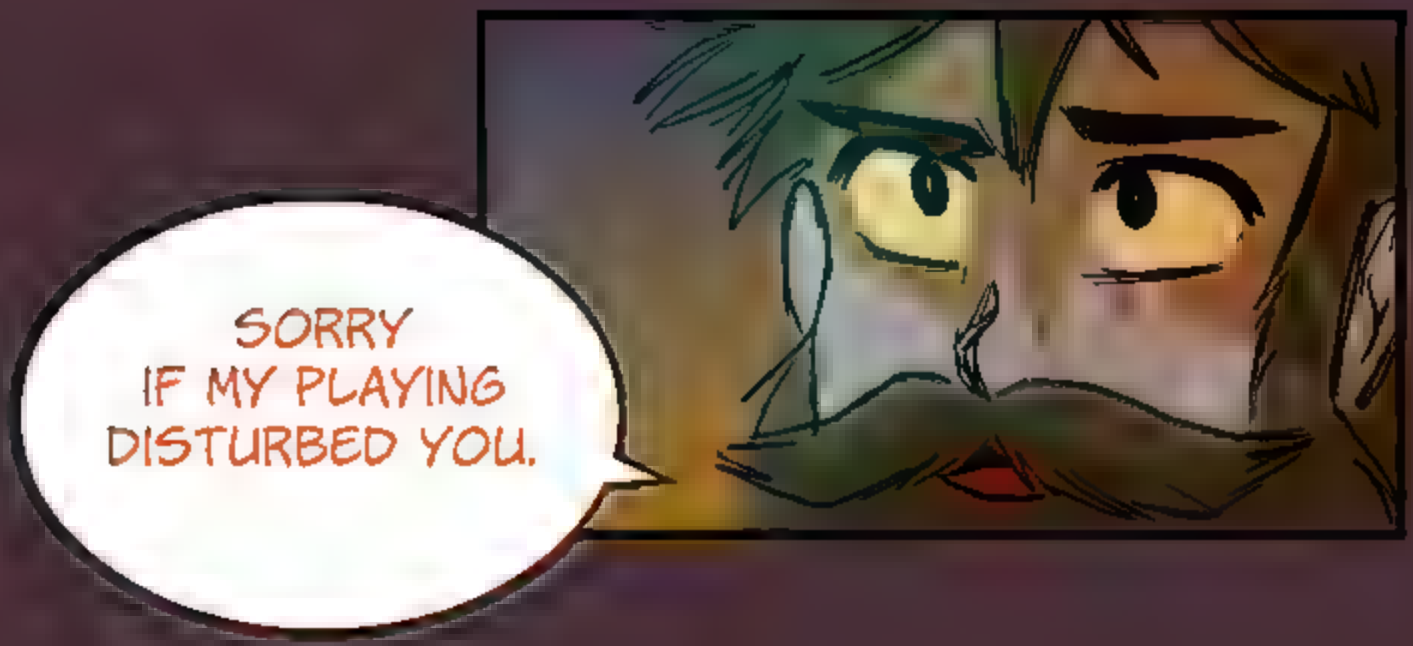

BLINK



GASP


STOP

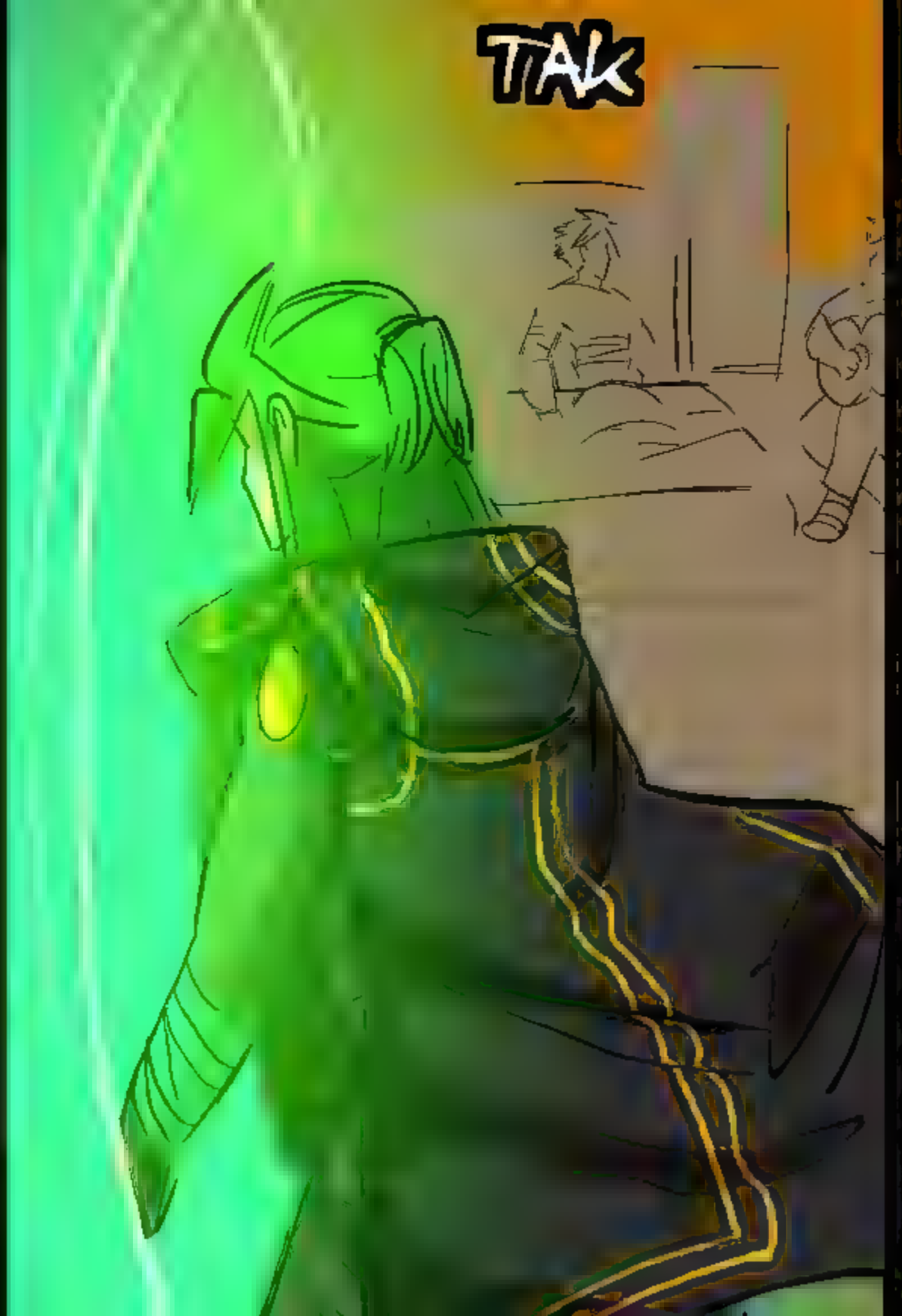
AH DESPERTASTE | AH YOU'RE AWAKE (SPANISH)


SORRY
IF MY PLAYING
DISTURBED YOU.

IS THIS THE ROOM OF SWORDS?

LITTLE DID I KNOW AT THE TIME, I HAD BEEN PULLED INTO THE MIDDLE OF A WAR...

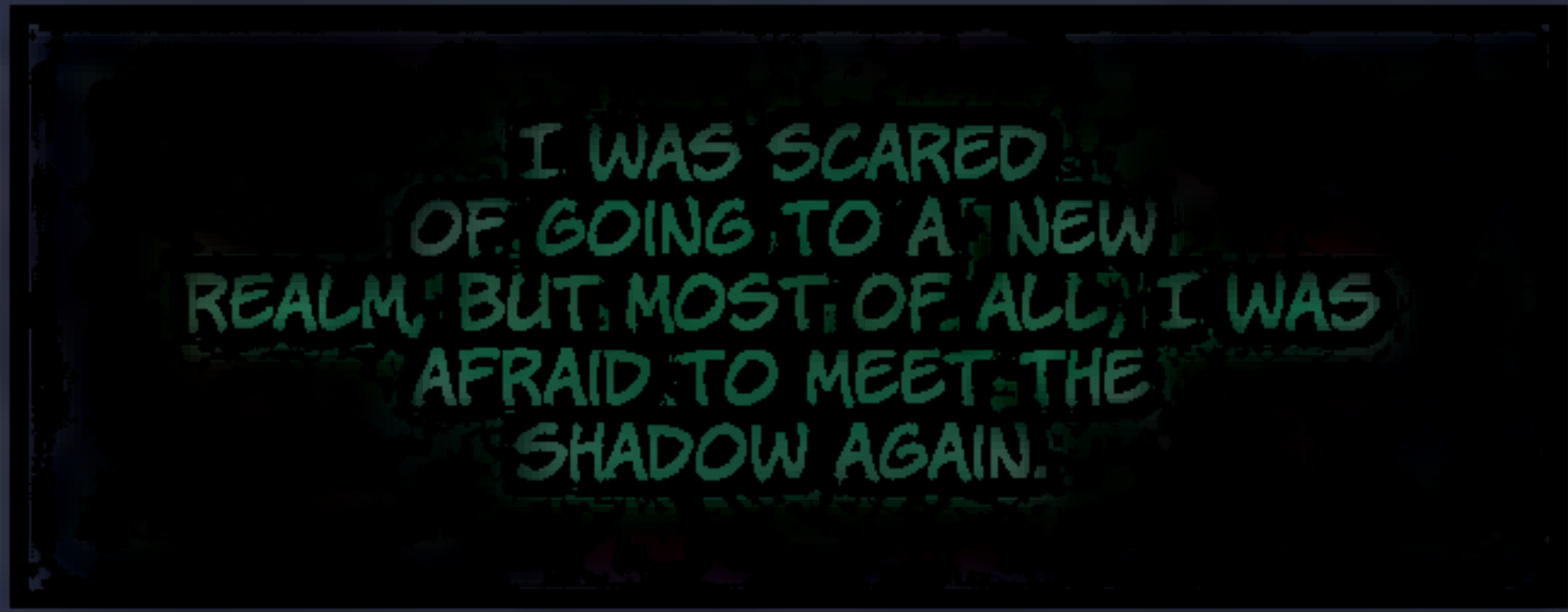
TAK

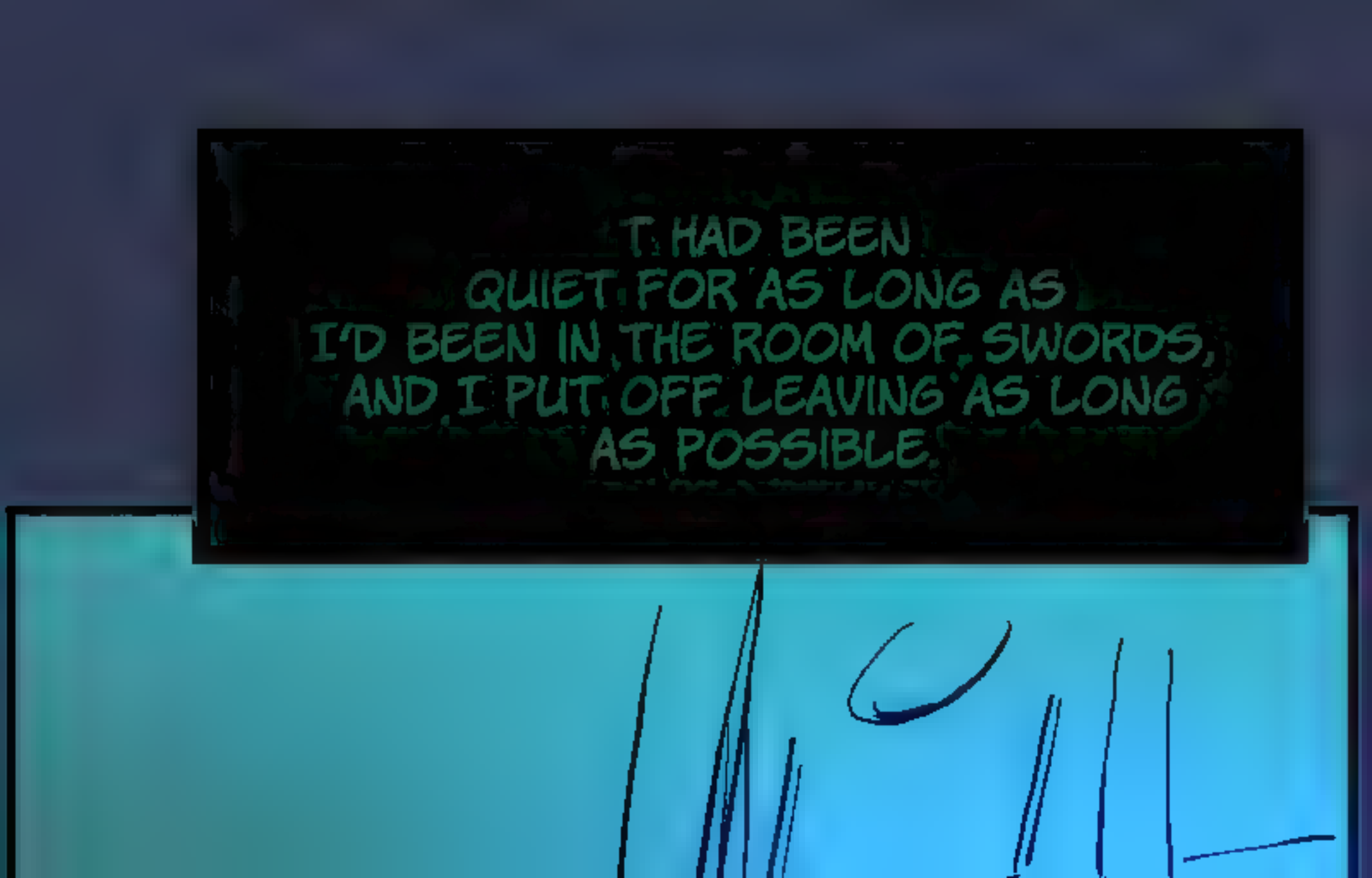

TAK

STORY/ART: TOONIMATED

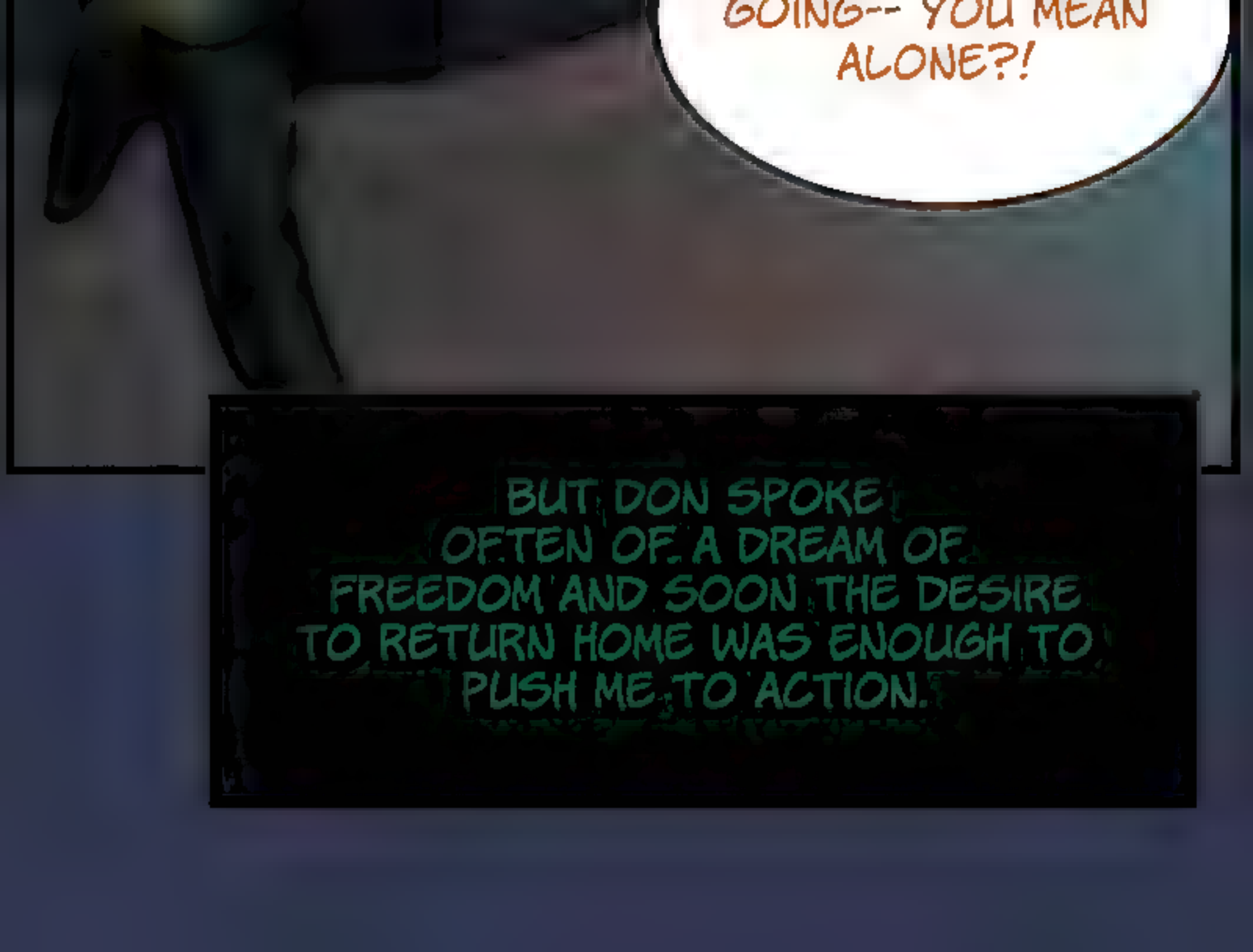
CHAPTER 97

"DARKEST PART"


I WAS SCARED OF GOING TO A NEW REALM, BUT MOST OF ALL, I WAS AFRAID TO MEET THE SHADOW AGAIN.


IT HAD BEEN
QUIET FOR AS LONG AS
I'D BEEN IN THE ROOM OF SWORDS,
AND I PUT OFF LEAVING AS LONG
AS POSSIBLE.

WHAT?!
YOU'RE


GOING-- YOU MEAN ALONE?!
BUT DON SPOKE OFTEN OF A DREAM OF FREEDOM AND SOON THE DESIRE TO RETURN HOME WAS ENOUGH TO PUSH ME TO ACTION.

WE
ONLY HAVE ONE
SWORD...

IT SHOULD BE ME... I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S DONE IT BEFORE, SO...
TREMBLE

TREMBLE
I KNOW YOU DO NOT LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT...

BUT MAY
I ASK YOU WHAT
HAPPENED?

WHEN YOU ARRIVED YOUR STOMACH WAS COVERED IN STAB WOUNDS...

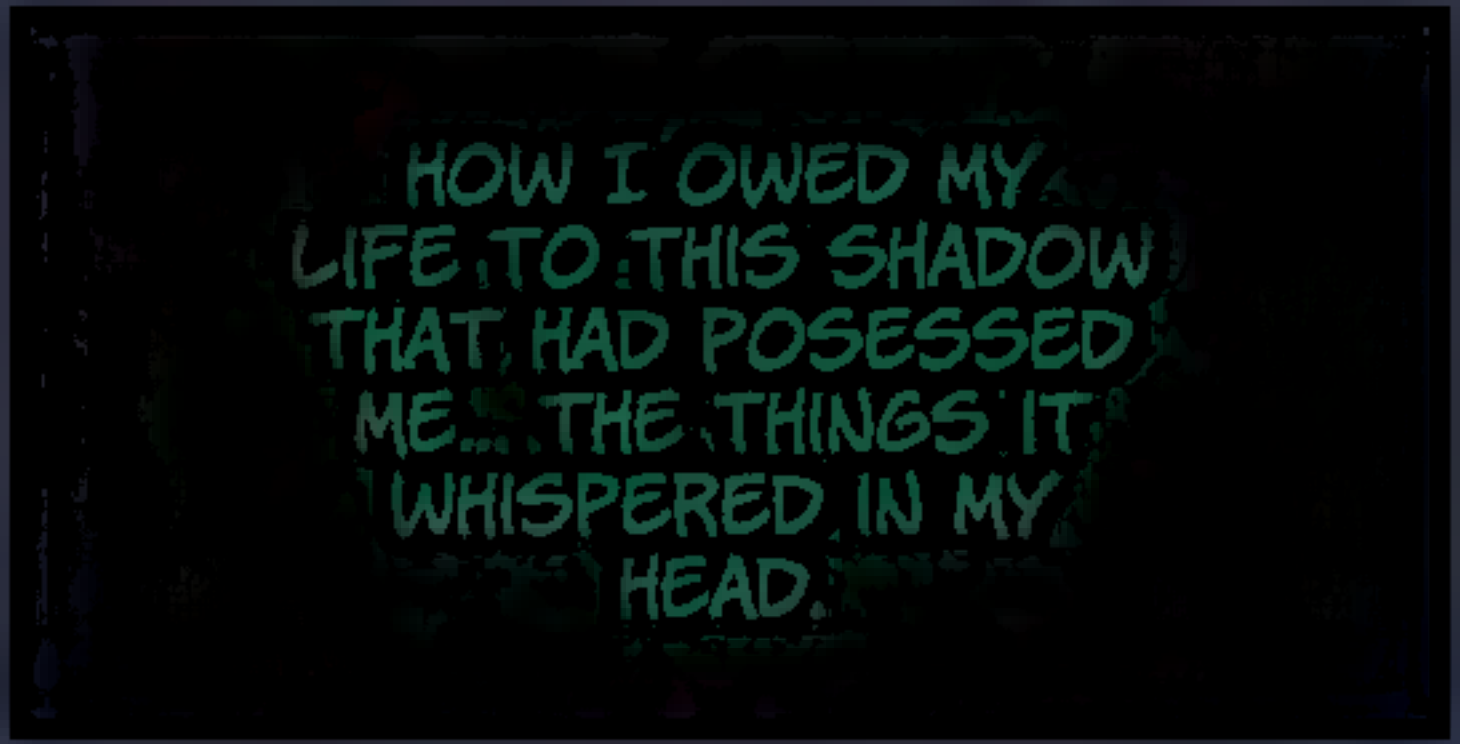
MAY I ASK
IF IT WAS... SELF
INFLICTED?

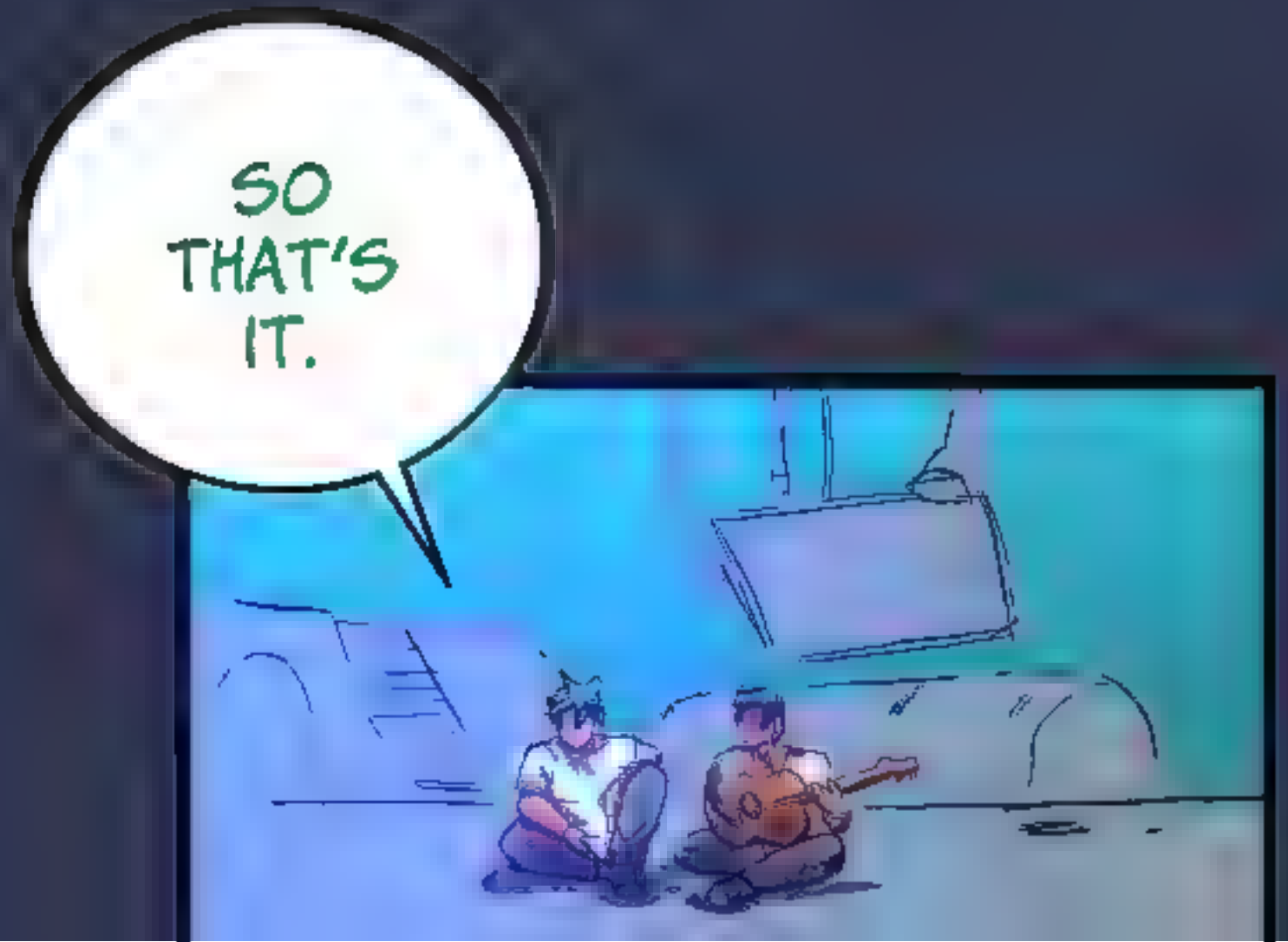
...NO.

AT
LEAST... NOT
AT FIRST.

I HADN'T INTENDED TO, BUT, SOME HOW I ENDED UP TELLING HIM EVERYTHING...

THEN
HOLD STILL


HOW I OWED MY LIFE TO THIS SHADOW THAT HAD POSESSED ME... THE THINGS IT WHISPERED IN MY HEAD.


SO THAT'S IT.

IT MUST SOUND PRETTY CRAZY.

AL CONTRARIO, IT EXPLAINS SO MUCH!

BUT...
YOU HAVE NOT SEEN THIS SHADOW SINCE COMING TO THE ROOM OF SWORDS?

NO, I HAVEN'T...

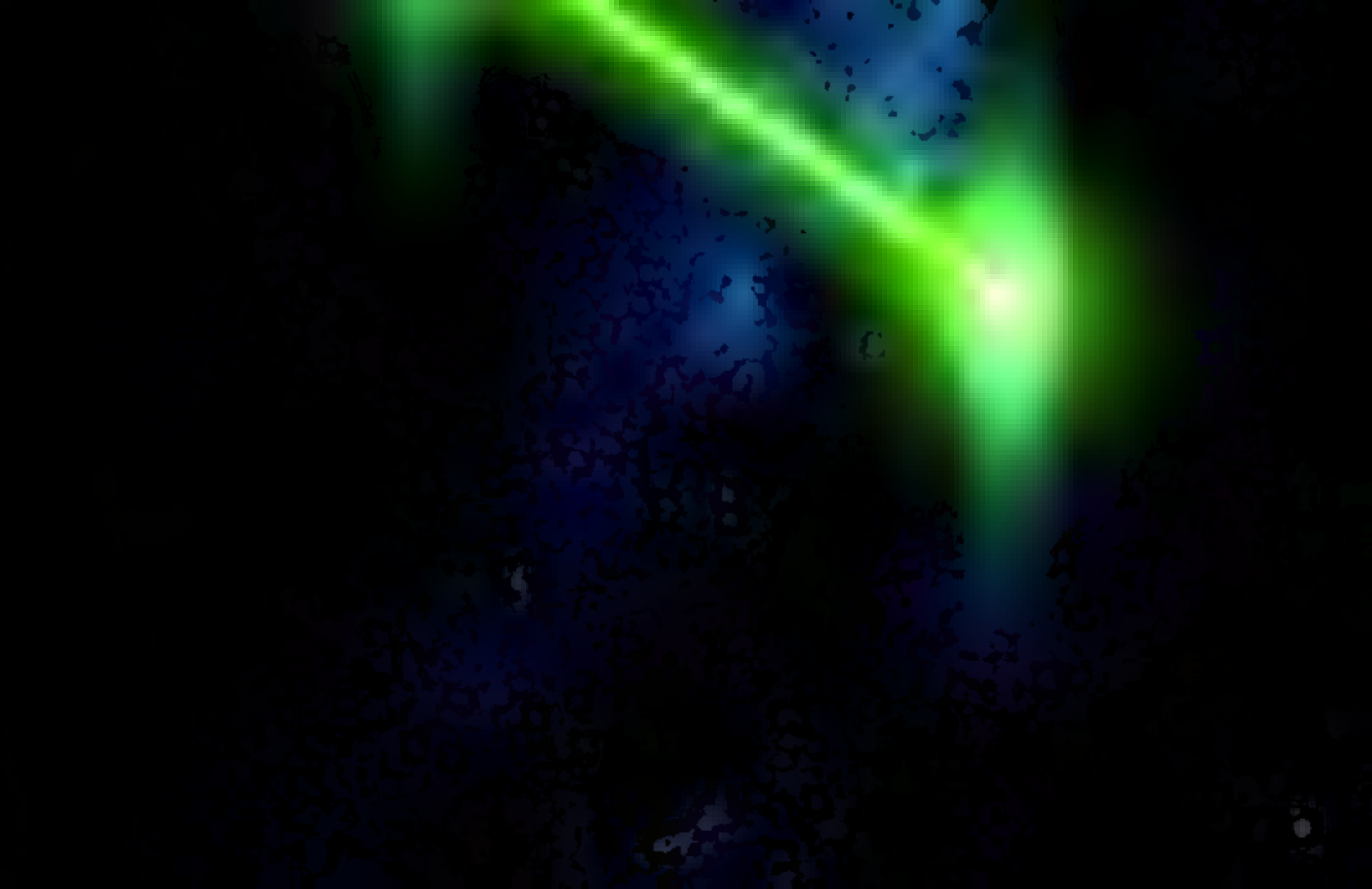
YOU SAID
IT CAME TO YOU
IN MOMENTS OF
DESPERATION...

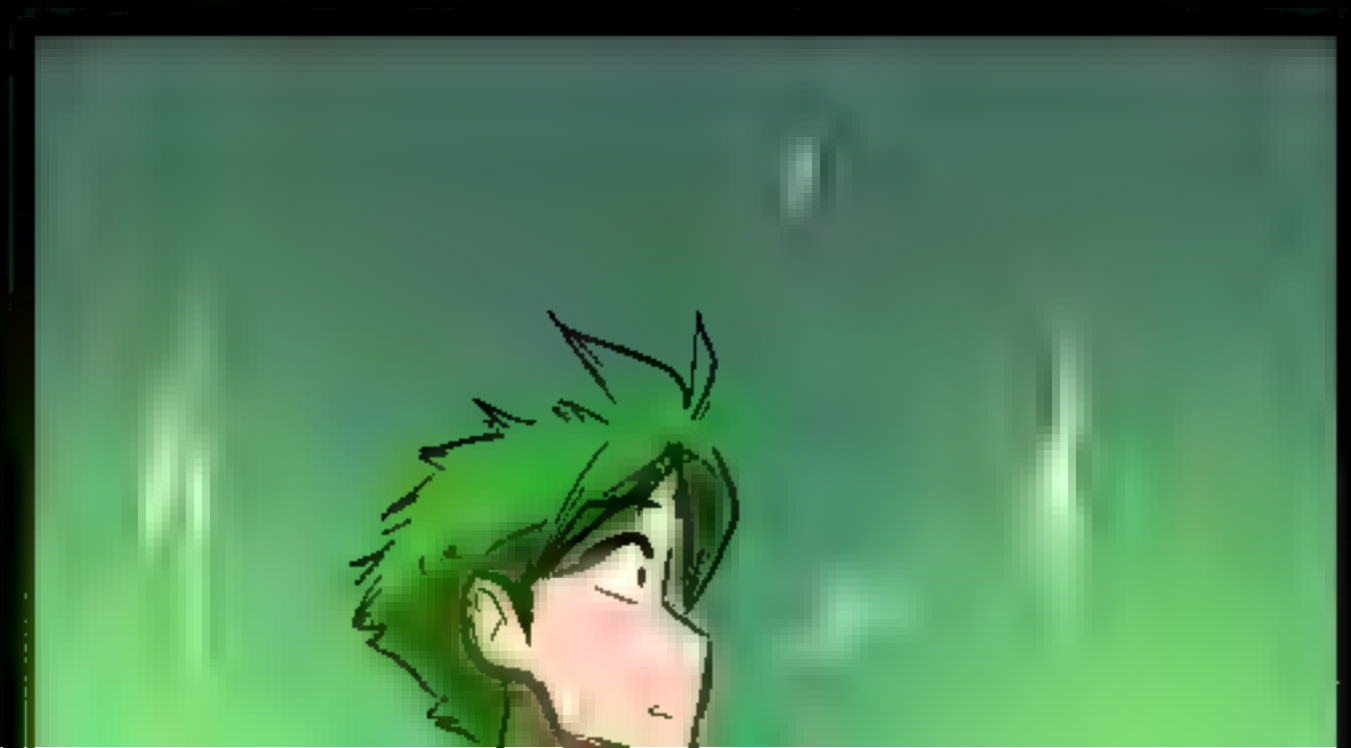
PERHAPS THE SOLUTION IS TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.

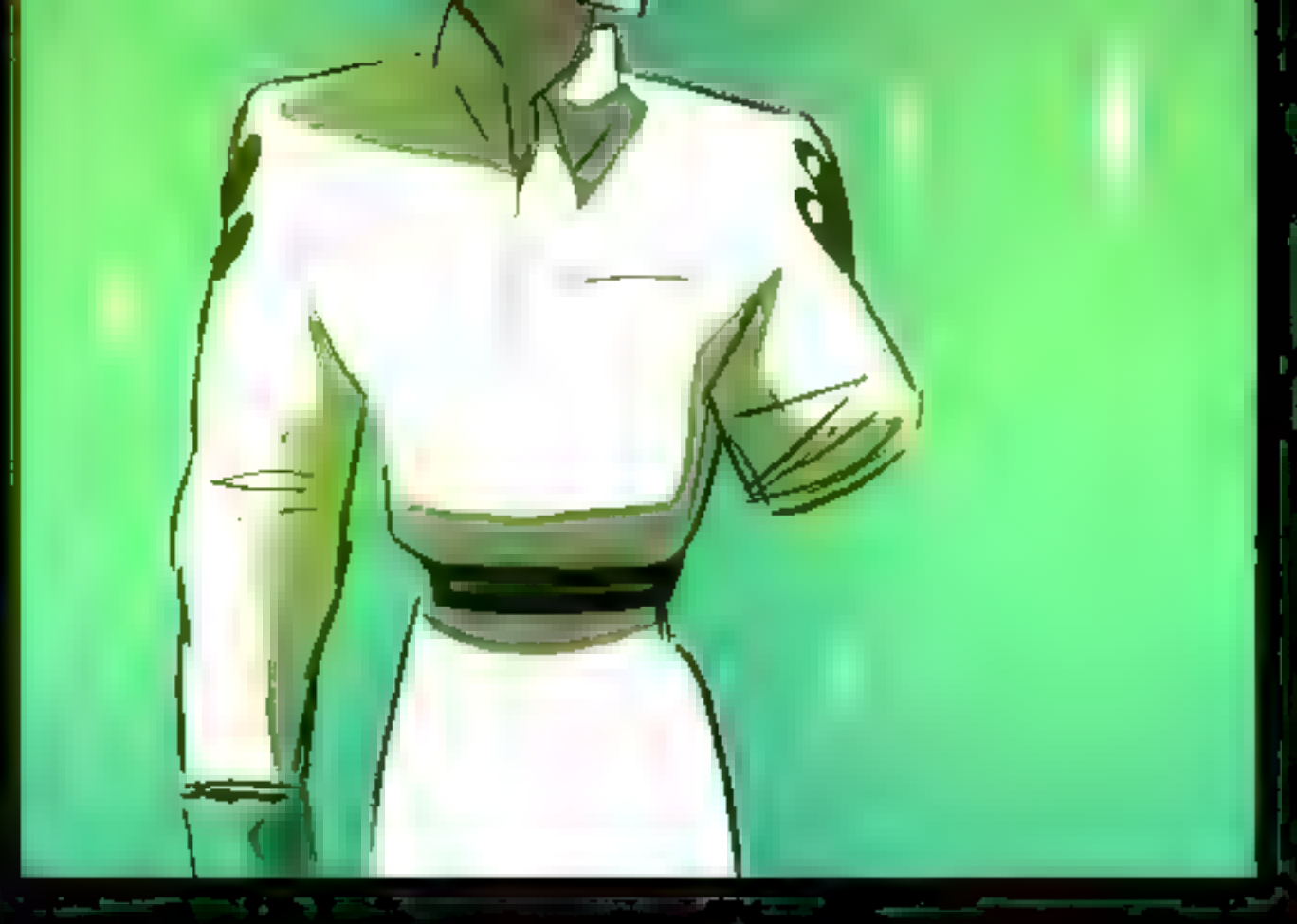
WE ALL HAVE OUR DEMONS, AMIGO.

BUT WE ALSO HAVE OUR OWN INNER STRENGTH TO FIGHT THEM.

AND.... IF YOU EVER HAVE NEED OF REINFORCEMENTS, YOU CAN COME TO ME.



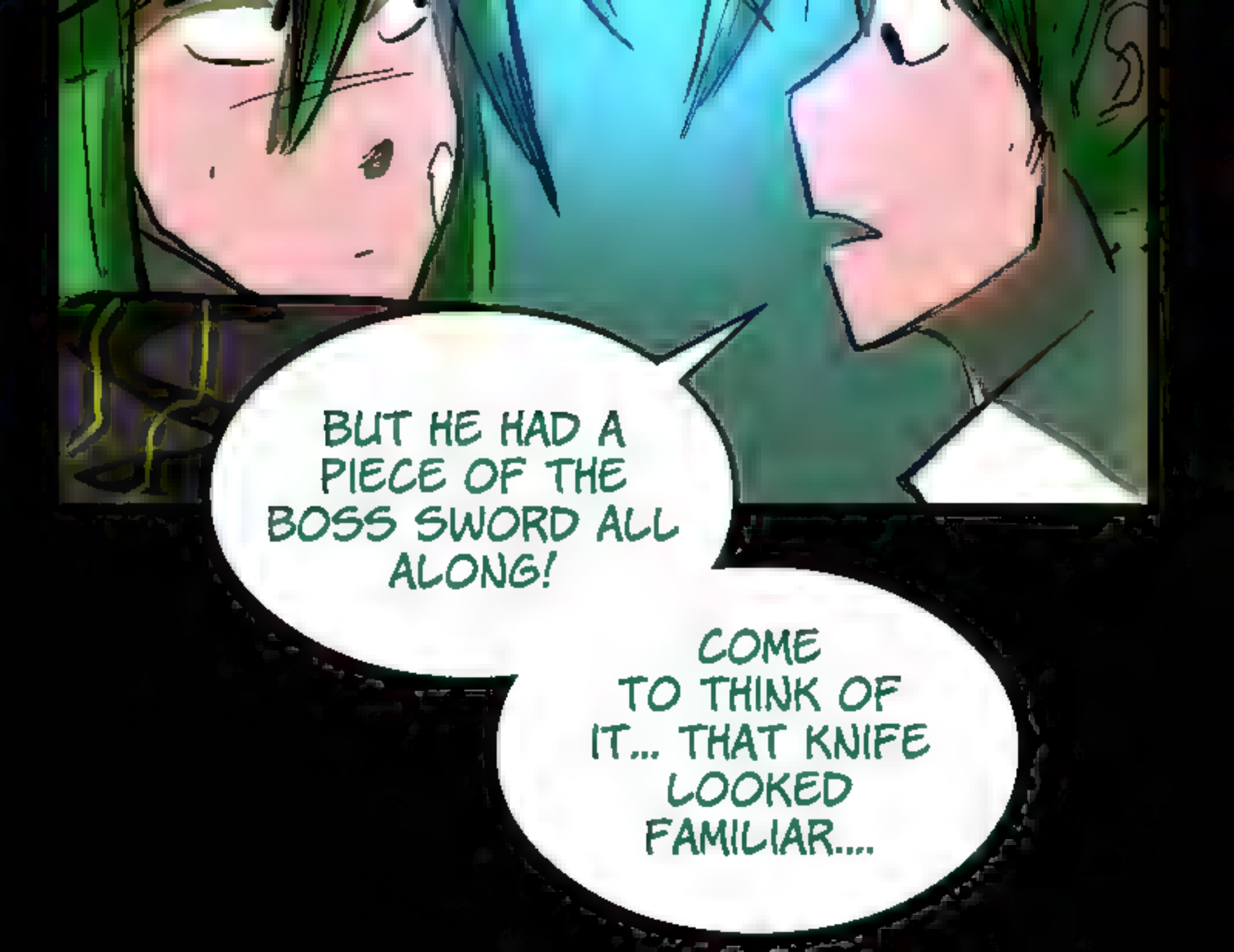




THUD

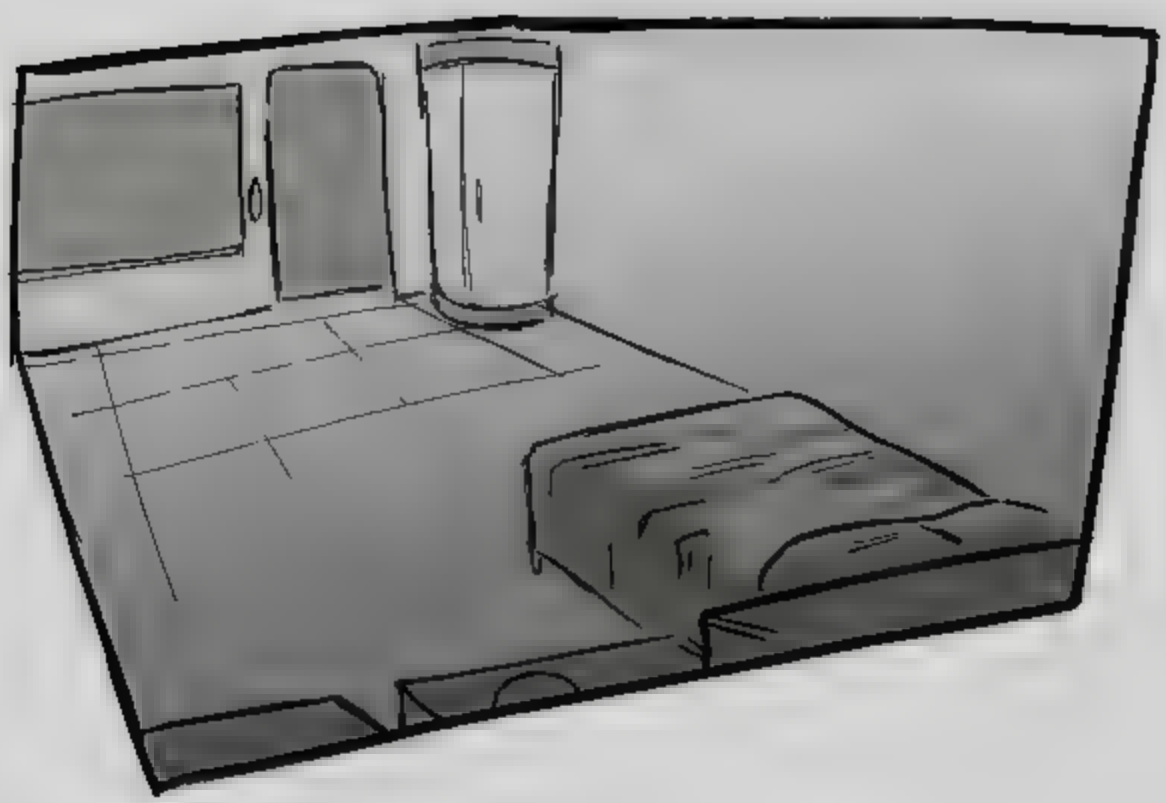
DON HAD A WAY WITH WORDS.... I REALLY DID FEEL A LOT BETTER AFTER THAT.

I...
REMEMBER
NOW!
HE LET
ME GO ALONE
ON THAT
MISSION...


BUT HE HAD A PIECE OF THE BOSS SWORD ALL ALONG!
COME TO THINK OF IT... THAT KNIFE LOOKED FAMILIAR....

IT'S
THE KNIFE
THAT I FOUND
IN THE BOOK!

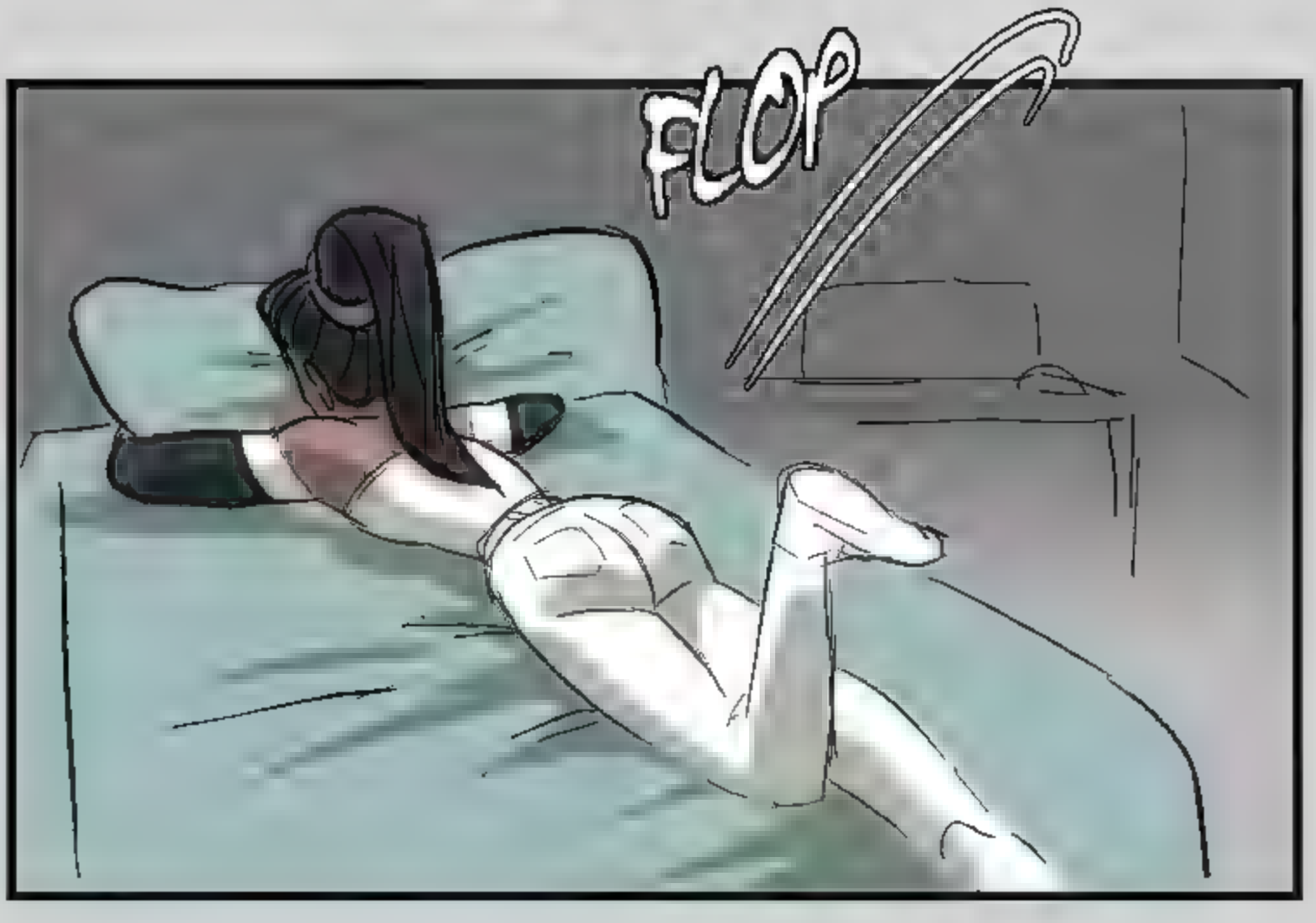
DON'T WORRY. IT'LL BE KEPT SAFE.

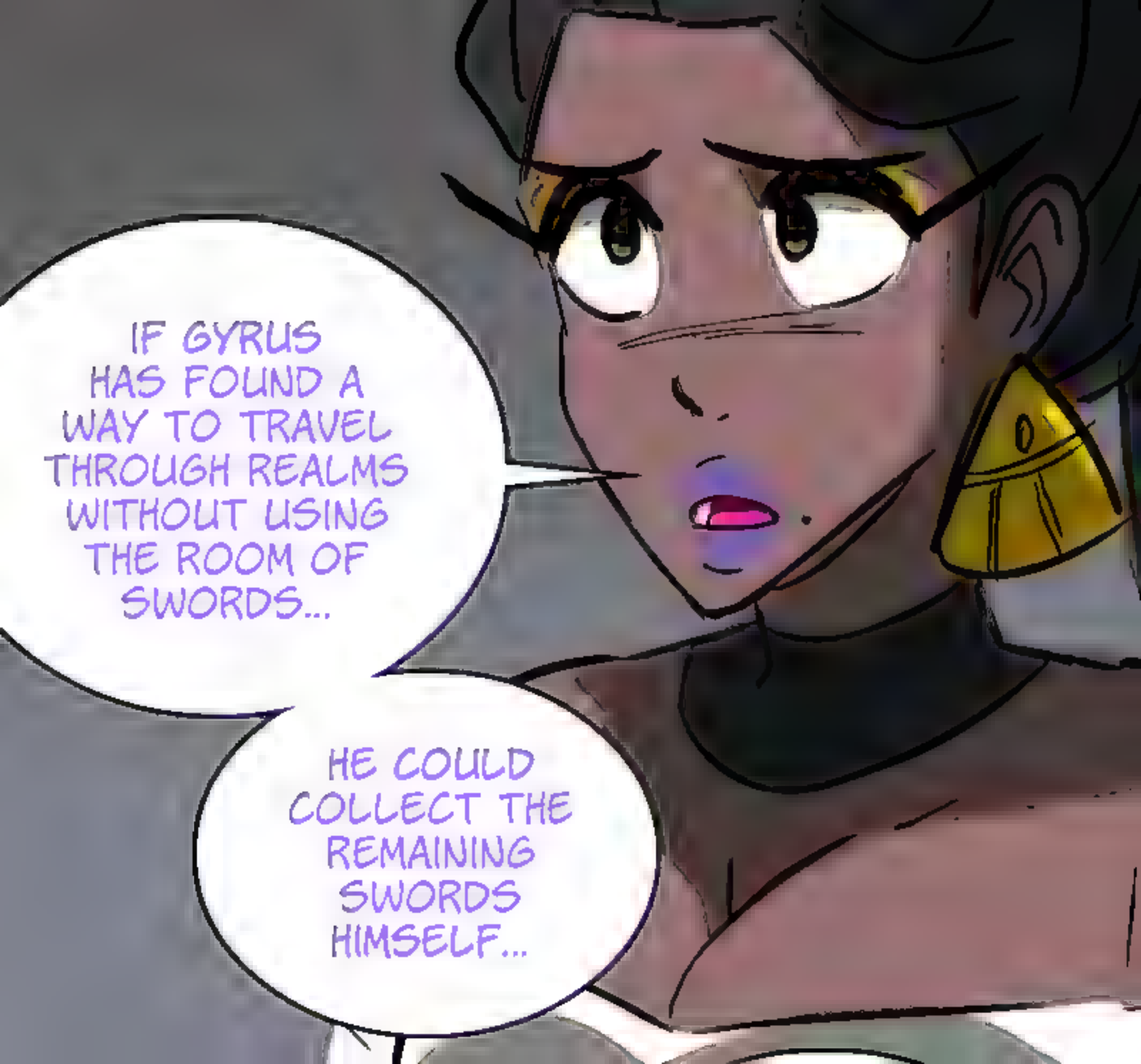


SLIDE

I FEEL
SO LOST...

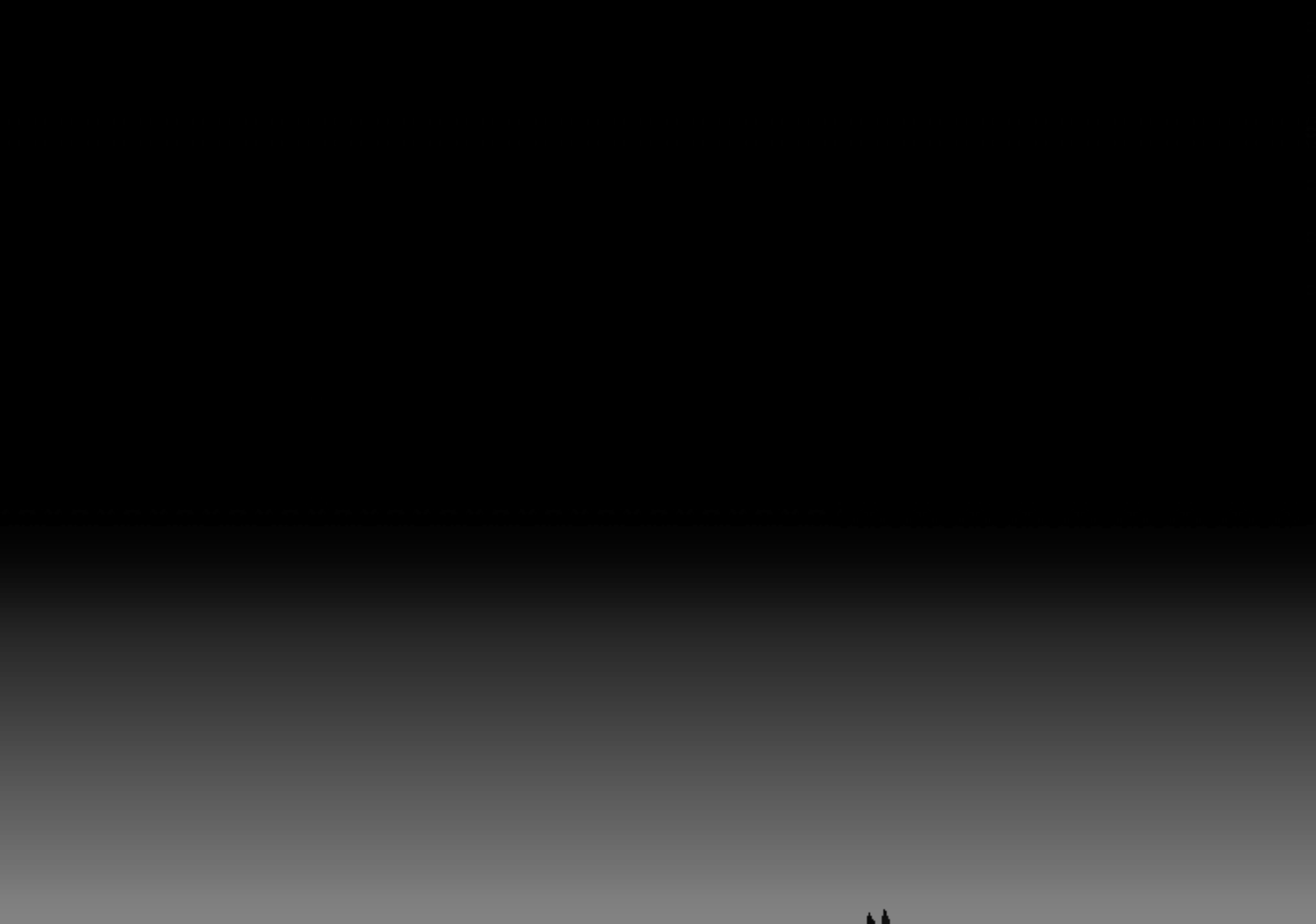
EVERYONE IS ANGRY AND AFRAID... RIGHTFULLY SO, IT SHOULD SEEM.

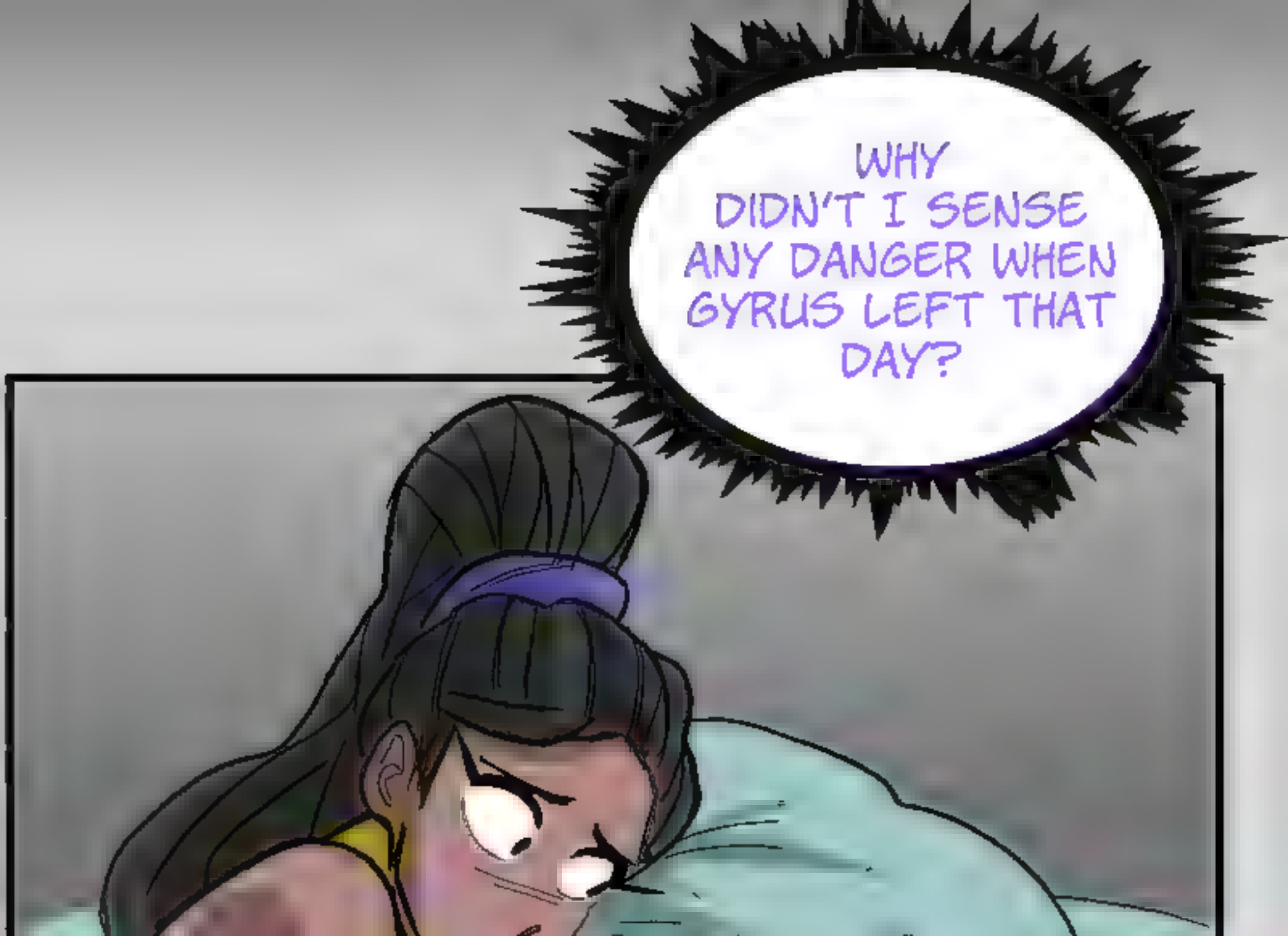



IF GYRUS HAS FOUND A WAY TO TRAVEL THROUGH REALMS WITHOUT USING THE ROOM OF SWORDS...
HE COULD COLLECT THE REMAINING SWORDS HIMSELF...

AND THERE WOULD BE NOTHING WE COULD DO TO STOP HIM.

WHATEVER IT TAKES, GYRUS CAN NOT BE ALLOWED TO WIN.

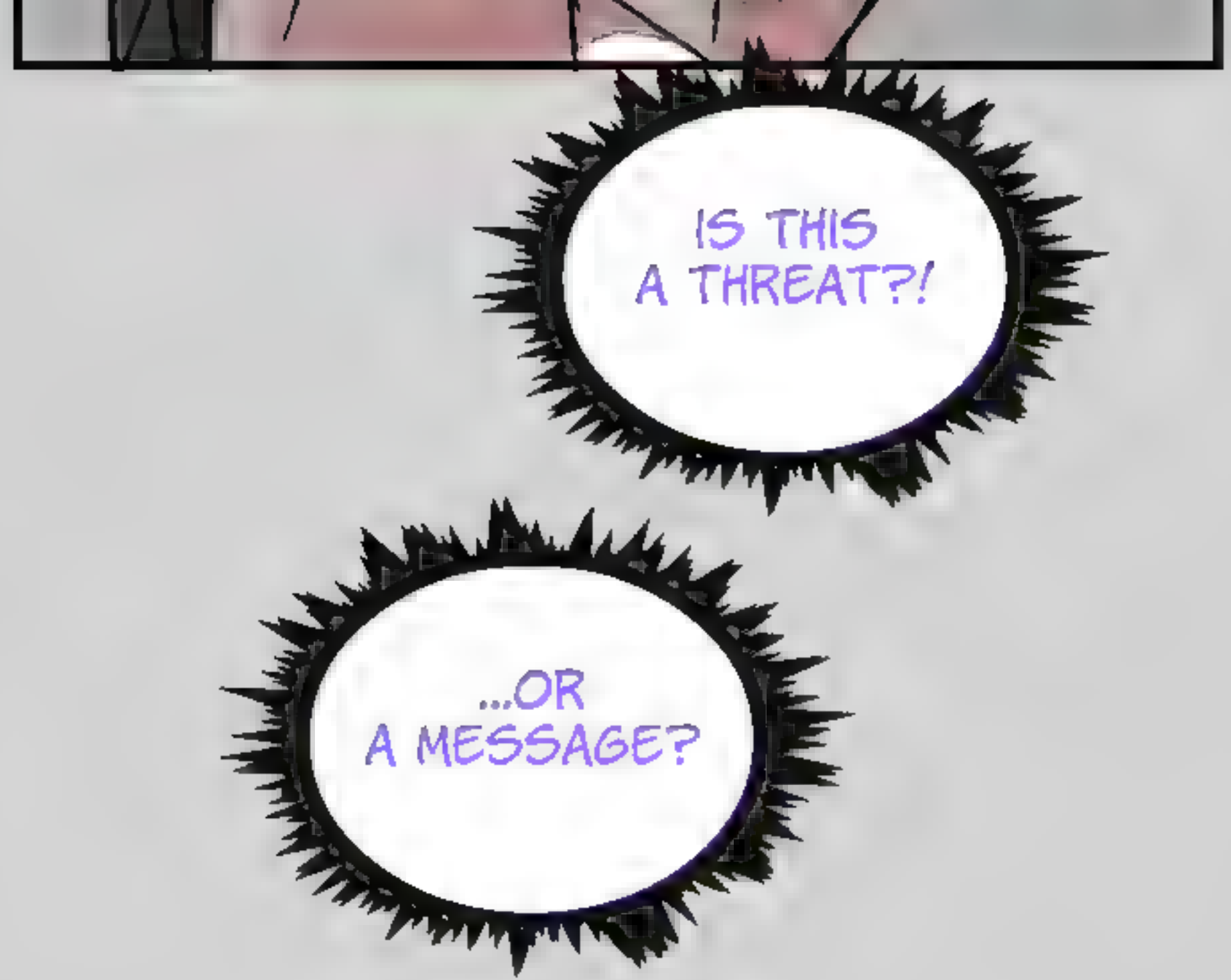



WHY DIDN'T I SENSE ANY DANGER WHEN GYRUS LEFT THAT DAY?

EVEN NOW... I'M BARELY AFFECTED BY IT... ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS "YOU'RE NEXT".

A KNIFE!?

WHOEVER LEFT THIS MUST HAVE USED IT ON KODY!


IS THIS A THREAT?!
...OR A MESSAGE?

- END OF CHAPTER 97 -

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